

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance are requested for claims 7, 8, and 10-12 in view of the following remarks.

**Status of the Application**

Claims 7, 8, and 10-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 were previously withdrawn. Claim 9 was previously canceled. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,293,163 to Kakiyama *et al.* (the “Kakiyama patent”) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2000-306190 to Shimoura *et al.* (the “Shimoura publication”). Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Kakiyama patent in view of the Shimoura publication, and U.S. Patent No. 5,874,905 to Nanba *et al.* (the “Nanba patent”). Claim 7 has been amended. Claims 11 and 12 have been added.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

According to the outstanding Office Action, the subject matter of claim 7 is rendered obvious by the combination of the Kakiyama patent and the Shimoura publication. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the amendments to claim 7 and the foregoing remarks.

The present invention evaluates the repeatability of the traffic jam statistical information by removing abnormal data that would improperly influence the repeatability of the traffic jam statistical information. The method for removing abnormal data can be viewed as a process for eliminating noise

from a data set. In this case, the noise in the data set could be caused, for example, by a special event (the specification gives an example of the Toyota Motor Show on page 17, line 23). The present invention would remove these abnormal data and would also remove abnormal data, as defined, for example, by having a large deviation during a particular time interval. See specification at p. 17, line 6 to p. 18, line 18; Figure 14. Once these abnormal data are removed, processing of the traffic jam statistical information continues.

Although the Shimomura publication discloses the use of standard deviation as providing a reliability measurement for a travel time, the Shimomura publication neither discloses nor suggests obtaining the standard deviation after removing abnormal data. As the Kakiyara patent also does not disclose or suggest this aspect of independent claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is patentable over the cited references. New claims 11 and 12 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 7.

With regard to dependent claims 8 and 10, Applicants respectfully submit that the Nanba patent does not disclose the subject matter of claim 7 not disclosed in the Shimomura publication or the Kakiyara patent. Therefore, these claims are patentable as well.

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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 029118.53153US.

Respectfully submitted,

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